

PERSonnel UPDATES

The Newsletter for Authorized Agents & Personnel/Payroll Officers

Editor: Rebecca Fricke

September 2002
Volume 10, Issue 4
Special Edition

3

Program Initiative

Important USERRA Update

NDPERS
400 E Broadway Ave Suite 505
Bismarck ND 58501
Telephone (701) 328-3900
www.discovernd.com/ndpers

This newsletter is intended to provide general information and may not be considered to be a legal interpretation of law. Statements contained in this newsletter do not supersede the North Dakota Century Code or Administrative Code or restrict the authority granted to the Retirement Board. This information is subject both to changes made by the legislature and rules and regulations established by the Board of the North Dakota Public Employees Retirement System.

Events/Mailings

FLEXCOMP PROGRAM, LIFE AND VOLUNTARY INSURANCE PLANS ANNUAL ENROLLMENT INFORMATION – 2003 PLAN YEAR

The annual enrollment for the FlexComp Program, life, dental, long term care and the new vision plan, will begin October 1 through November 15, 2002. In an attempt to promote the availability of the long term care plan, NDPERS is including information concerning the long term care plan in this year's annual enrollment kit even though enrollment in the plan can occur at any time. Coverage is effective January 1, 2003 for participation in the FlexComp program and the dental and vision plans. The coverage effective date for life insurance and long term care is based upon approval by the carrier.

The FlexComp Program is available to eligible employees of state agencies and participating district health units, excluding the university system. All voluntary insurance plans are available to eligible employees of state agencies and the university system. At this time employees of counties, cities, schools, or district health units are not eligible to participate in the voluntary insurance plans. To be eligible the employee must be at least 18 years of age, work at least 17 ½ hours per week for five (5) or more months a year, and be in a regularly funded position that is not of limited duration.

Enrollment information for the FlexComp Program, dental plan, vision plan, life insurance and long term care insurance will be sent to each eligible

employee's home address. The mailing is scheduled for the week of September 23, 2002.

Active employees will be directed to obtain enrollment forms from their payroll office or download the form from the PERS website. Plan information and forms will be available after October 1st on our website at www.discovernd.com/ndpers. Select "Insurance Plans" on the menu for benefit information and the "Employer Information" section to obtain forms.

Many of the materials have been updated; therefore, you will need to order your supply of forms, dental and vision plan handbooks, identification cards, and long term care kits by the end of September by using the NDPERS Forms Request available at our website. PLEASE DESTROY ALL OLD FORMS.

Our office will be conducting informational meetings throughout the state to cover plan benefits for the dental, vision and long term care plans. NDPERS will send e-mails concerning the annual enrollment information and meeting schedule to each agency's authorized agent to distribute to employees. Enrollment information and meeting schedules can also be found on the PERS website. Active employees and retirees are invited to attend at any of the meeting locations.

Life & Voluntary Insurance Plans 2003 Plan Year Annual Enrollment Information – State Employees Including the University System

ReliaStar (ING) has revised the current dental enrollment form; therefore, you need to destroy your old supply when requesting new

In the October 2001 edition of this newsletter, NDPERS provided information about reservists being called into active duty following the events of September 11th. At that time, PERS had requested an opinion from the Attorney General's office to review and determine the applicable requirements for the PERS benefit programs under the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Rights Act (USERRA). Specifically, we requested clarification regarding the employer payment of retirement contributions. We had a previous opinion on this subject; however, we requested this new opinion to determine if changes in federal legislation had occurred that would change the conclusions in the previous opinion. NDPERS recently received the opinion from the Attorney General regarding our request. The complete opinion is

DON'T FORGET!
File this issue behind the
PERSONNEL Newsletter Updates
tab in your **INSIDE NDPERS**
Handbook.